

From: Bill Herring
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 10:47am
Subject: Proposed settlement between the Department of Justice and Microsoft

Dear Sirs and Mesdames:

I do indeed believe that Microsoft has in some cases been an overbearing competitor, and probably should be brought in line, but as a user of Microsoft products, I do not believe that Microsoft should be prevented from providing the software that we as a country have profited from.

I have used Microsoft program products for years as well as software from other producers. I find that Microsoft sets a standard that their competitors sometimes find it hard to meet. As a user, I value that they produce programs and systems that are rich in function, of high quality, and are sold at a price that I can afford.

The fact that they have become a de facto standard, and that I can use their office products and exchange information with others without running into compatibility problems is also important to me, and is a major factor in my business use of their products.

By all means hold them to correct behaviour, but punitive actions that lessen their ability to meet their customers needs would be contrary to good business practice, and, I think, would cost us dearly as a nation and as an economy.

Thank you for your attention,
William L. Herring
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